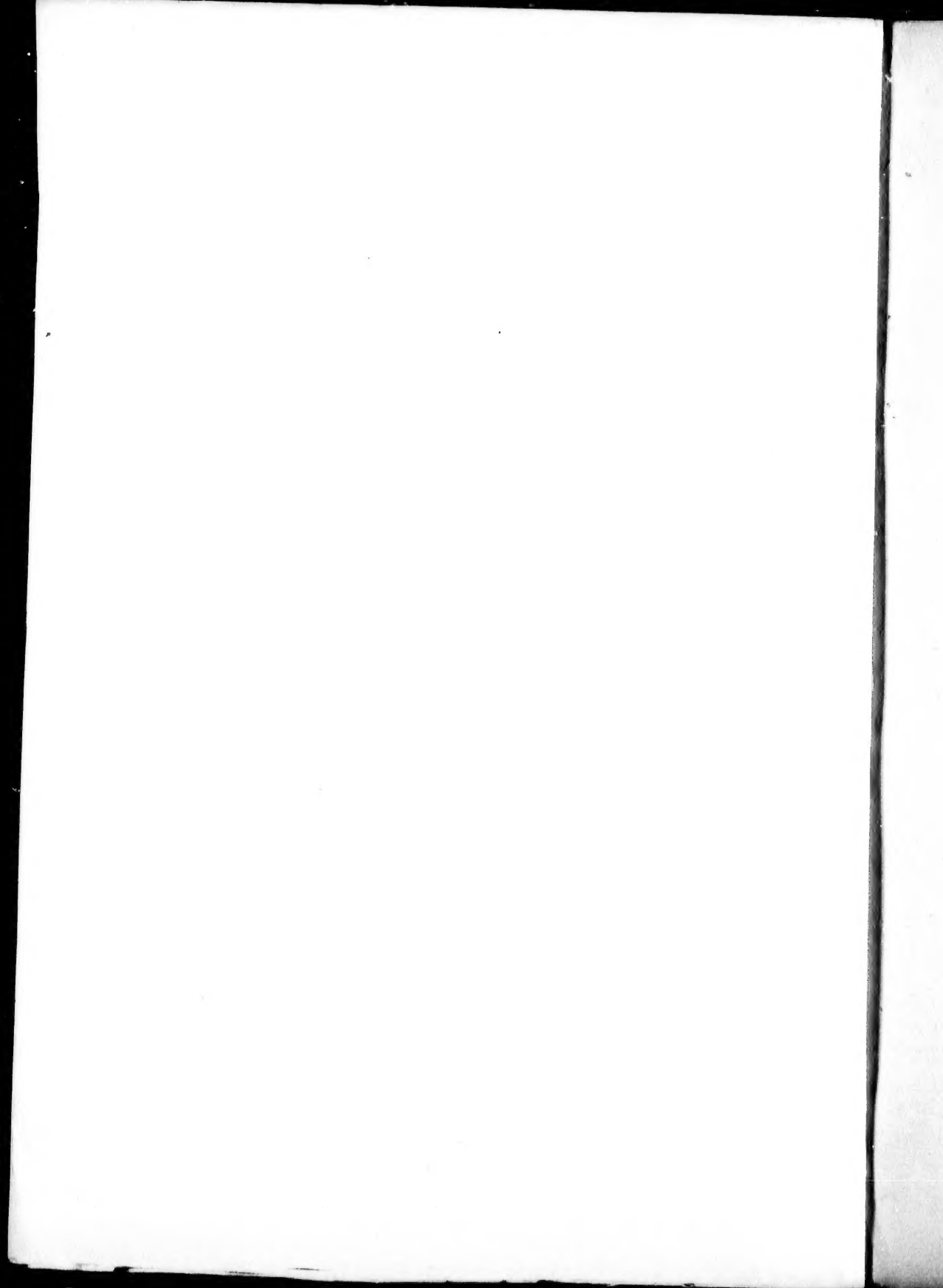




THE 13TH BATTALION OF HAMILTON.

BY THOS. E. CHAMPION.

IF a Toronto man were asked to name the finest regiment among the many fine regiments comprising the Canadian Militia, his answer would probably be, the "Queen's Own" or the "Grens." or the "Kilties" according to his own predilections for one or other of these battalions. A Montrealer might

that the "13th Battalion of Hamilton is the first of all Canadian Militia regiments in everything, and that compared with their excellence the rest are nowhere."

Such is the unanimous opinion of Hamiltonians, and though it is naturally not fully shared in by people who do not



LIEUT.-COL. THE HON. J. M. GIBSON, HONORARY COLONEL 13TH BATTALION.

say, the "Vics." or the "Royal Scots," and a Kingston resident would answer probably, that the "14th," if all things were equal, would head the list. But there can be no possible doubt what a Hamilton man would reply to the question, and as he answered he would marvel at the ignorance of the questioner in not knowing,

live in the "Ambitious City," everyone who knows anything of military matters is willing to concede that the 13th Battalion is a splendid specimen of the Canadian Militia, and that with citizen soldiers such as they are, Canada "shall not be ashamed when she speaks with her enemies in the gate."

The 13th was raised in the year 1862, its first commanding officer being Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan; but previously to the year named there were three rifle companies in Hamilton, one of them being a Highland company, which had been embodied under the provisions of the Militia Act of 1855.

Of these companies it is not necessary to say much; they were fairly well drilled and officered, but their discipline was of the most rudimentary nature, and they possessed more the character of military clubs than of efficient soldiers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Buchanan was the first commanding officer of the 13th, being gazetted November 28th, 1862, and the officers commanding companies on the organization were Captains J. E. O'Reilly, Cattley, Skinner, Brown, Mingaye, McInnes and Bell. Subsequently Captain McKeown was appointed, the regiment then consisting of eight companies. A few weeks later a ninth company was added under Captain Law. During the latter part of 1863, Nos. 7 and 8 companies were gazetted out, and in 1865, the same fate was shared by No. 3 which was replaced by No. 9; at that date the 13th became a six-company battalion.

"By general order of 23rd May, 1867," to quote Lieutenant-Colonel Moore's interesting sketch of the battalion, "the Dundas Infantry Company (Captain Wardell) and the Waterdown Infantry Company (Captain Glasgow) were attached to the 13th Battalion for administrative purposes as No. 7 and 8, and remained so until by general order of May 23rd, 1872, the 77th Battalion was formed in which they are now Nos. 1 and 2 companies."

A most important event in the history of the regiment occurred on September 1st, 1863, when the 13th Battalion received their colors from the hands of Mrs. Isaac Buchanan.

The escort for the colors was under the command of Captain Henderson, who had succeeded Captain O'Reilly in command of No. 1 Company, and the officers deputed to receive them were, Ensigns Watson and Buchanan. In making the presentation, after prayer by Rev. J. Gamble Geddes, for so many

years the esteemed rector of Christ Church, Hamilton, now the cathedral, Mrs. Buchanan said:—

"Officers and men of the 13th Battalion of Royal Canadian Volunteer Militia of Canada:

"I have great pleasure in presenting to you these colors which have just been set apart to the service of our beloved Queen and country.

"The blessing of the Almighty has just been invoked upon your Arms, and so long as you keep these colors unsullied from the stain of dishonor, you may indeed expect the blessing of the God of Battles to fall upon your Arms, for they will never, I trust, be taken up by you, save in a righteous cause—the defence of your homes, which you declare yourselves *Semper paratus* to defend, if need be, with your lives.

"This color—the Queen's—the meteor flag of our dear old England—wonderfully glorious wherever it flashes, ever the harbinger of peace and prosperity, and the pledge of protection to all who shelter beneath its folds. Ever ready is it to be unfurled in a just cause, on the side of the weak against the strong. This flag, which has been the symbol of freedom and justice in the past ages, will still, in the ages to come, flutter in the van of the triumph of the right over the wrong, and just because and so long as it is carried on the side of justice.

"This color you are entitled to carry in virtue of the uniform you wear, and which makes it your duty to take heed that no aggressive foe tries to snatch Canada from Britain's glorious diadem. May God long spare our beloved Queen to command the services of our best and bravest.

"This color is yours as belonging to the 13th Battalion of Canadian Volunteers. And what does this imply? Simply, that you are prepared in an hour of need, should such unhappily come upon us, which God forbid, to form part of a fence around Canada, between us and the foe. The best guarantee that such a day shall not dawn upon us, is that you volunteers be indeed *Semper paratus* not only for such parades as this, but for the stern realities of the battle-field. We are all interested that so untoward an event as war be averted; how deeply interested who among us could say—for are not the lives of our best beloved at stake? But peace will not be maintained by folding our hands and shutting our eyes to the possibility of war, and crying peace. We must prepare ourselves for possible troublesome times now, as the best earnest we have of continued peace. Strive to master all the details that are to make soldierly men of you now, so as to have nothing

of that sort to learn when the day of action arrives. You will never be called upon to take part in aggressive warfare—to tarnish the silver wing of peace, and desolate homes; but not the less courageously will our own homes be defended; and let the foe who would tread on Canadian soil beware! He could only dare this in ignorance of the defence around us—men with the hearts and souls of men who will not flee even from the face of death if there lies their post of duty.

"Imbued with feelings of devoted loyalty to our beloved Queen, we have, at the call of her representative in this province associated ourselves together for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of the use of arms, not for mere pastime or parade, but to enable us to do our duty as men, should ever our services be required in defence of the British Empire on this continent. We know not what the future has in store for us; we pray for peace, but should it be the will of the All-wise Disposer of events



LIEUT.-COL. MOORE, COMMANDING 13TH BATTALION.

"I have much pleasure in handing over to your safe keeping these colors, in full confidence that you will be *Semper paratus* to defend them."

Major Skinner was in command of the 13th on the occasion, and he made reply as follows:—

"Mrs. Buchanan:

"Madam,—In the name and on behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 13th Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteer Militia, I thank you for your very beautiful gift.

to afflict our beloved country with the horrors of war, I feel every confidence in assuring you that the 13th Battalion will be found ready to do battle for our Queen and country, whether assailed by foreign enemies or domestic traitors.

"I would again thank you, Madam, for those splendid colors. I trust they will be the means of inspiring us with renewed energy and attention to our duties, and I confidently express the hope that so long as an officer or man of this regiment can wield a weapon in their defence, they shall remain unsullied from the stain of dishonor."



THE LATE LIEUT.-COL. SKINNER.

Two days after the 13th received their colors, the regiment made their first appearance at a review which was held in Brantford, when General Napier had no less than 2,500 men under arms. Of these, 1,000 bayonets were British Regulars and the remainder were Canadian Militia. It is evidence of the splendid state of efficiency the regiment was in, even at that early date, that only two officers were absent from the parade, each company, with but two exceptions, and these unavoidable, having its captain, lieutenant and ensign present with it. Such efficiency is worthy of being recorded for it must be borne in mind that in those days the Canadian Militia was by no means a very popular force. It had not become fashionable then as it is now, and many people laughed and jeered at those, both officers and men, who accepted commissions or joined its ranks, saying: "It was playing at soldiers," with other remarks of a derisive or deprecatory nature.

Nous avons changé tout cela. Now the mere fact that a man belongs to the militia is considered a credit to him, people no longer talk about "playing at soldiers," they recognize the public spirit and patriotism that induces men to give up their leisure and their means

to provide for the defence of their country.

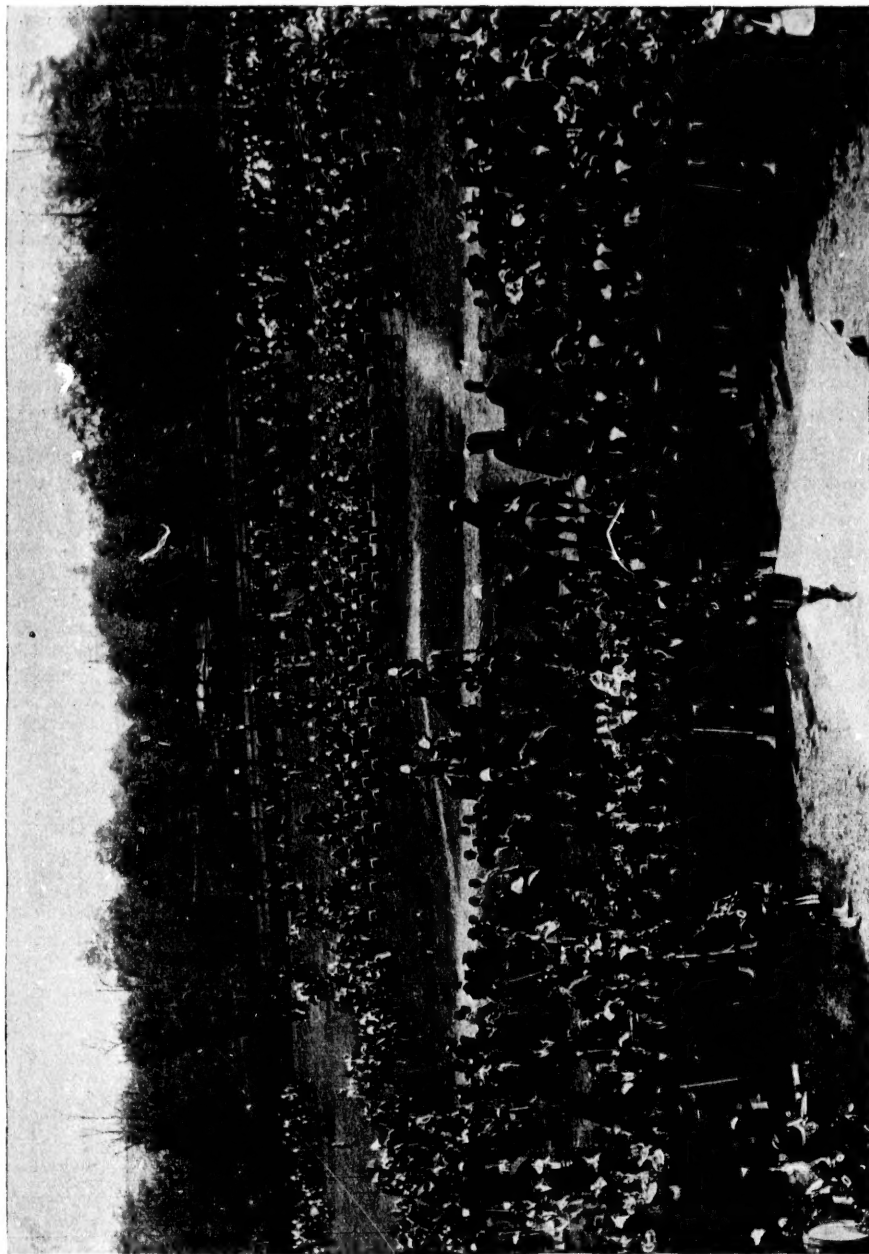
At the review just referred to, the 13th distinguished themselves for their general proficiency and received well merited commendation from the general officer commanding.

Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan retired from the command of the 13th, retaining his rank, December 30th, 1864, and on January 27th, 1865, was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Booker, who had commenced his career in the Canadian Militia in the Hamilton Field Battery of Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Booker retained the command until August 10th, 1866, and was followed by Lieutenant-Colonel James Skinner, who, for more than twenty years was the commanding officer. On the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, he was succeeded by Hon. J. M. Gibson, under whom the regiment attained a degree of efficiency alike creditable to itself and to the force of which it forms a part. Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson retired from the active command at the close of the drill season of 1895, having served in the regiment for over thirty years. So great was the estimation in which Lieutenant-Colonel



MAJOR J. J. MASON.



BAYONET EXERCISE AT DUNDURN, 1896.



MAJOR STONEMAN.

Gibson's services were held, that he was, on his retirement, not only allowed to retain his rank, but was appointed honorary lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, a distinction not previously granted to any retiring commanding officer of any regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson's successor was the present commandant of the 13th, who has held a commission in the corps since September 14th, 1866. Under Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, the regiment has fully retained its prestige and the *esprit de corps* of the battalion has been in no wise lessened.

To resume the regimental history, the first service—apart from the usual routine of drill and parade—the 13th Battalion experienced was in April, 1865, when a company, drawn from the various companies composing the regiment, was sent on frontier duty, and stationed at Prescott under the command of Major Cattley, who had as his subalterns, Lieutenant Watson and Ensign Jamieson. This company remained on duty until November, and during the whole time they were embodied no serious charge was made against a single man. There were trifling offences, no doubt, but anyone who knows anything of the rigor of "good order and military discipline" in

a camp, will understand how a very trifling misdemeanor in itself may constitute a breach of discipline, consequently a military crime.

Frontier duty came to an end in the autumn of 1865, the last company of the 13th which had been on duty having been stationed at Windsor, commanded by Captain A. E. Irving.

In the early part of 1866, there were many rumors throughout the country that the Fenians, who had congregated in large numbers in the Northern States, contemplated an invasion of this province. The 13th, in conjunction with the great mass of the militia of the province, were called out for active service on March 8th, 1866, and remained embodied, performing the regular routine of drill and duty appertaining to a British regiment of the line, until March 28th, when the daily duties were dispensed with by an order from the Major-General commanding, though two days' drill per week was still required of the battalion.

Hamilton at this time presented very much the appearance of being in a state of siege; a guard, consisting of one officer, two non-commissioned officers, and twenty-four men, were on the drill sheds, a sergeant and a guard of twelve men



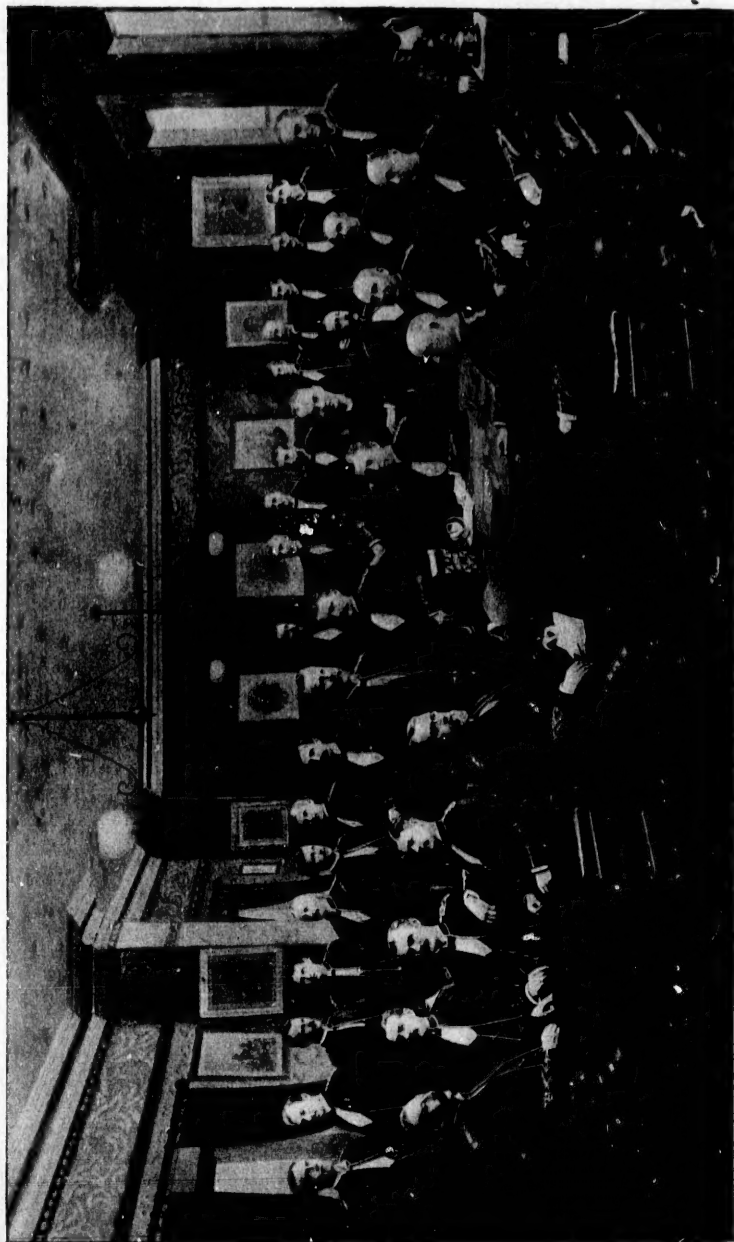
MAJOR McLAREN.

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THE OFFICERS OF THE 13TH BATTALION OF HAMILTON, 1894.



SURGEON H. S. GRIFFIN.

were stationed at the artillery sheds, and an officers' guard mounted daily at the Mountain View Hotel.

In the beginning of April, the fears of an invasion by the Fenians had subsided, and matters, not alone in Hamilton but also throughout the province, were progressing as usual. This state of things, though, was not destined long to continue, for the month of June had barely commenced when the cry, "To Arms!" "To Arms!" rang throughout the length and breadth of this fair province.

The Fenian Raid took place on June 2nd, 1866, and the 18th took part with the Queen's Own Rifles and 10th Royals of Toronto in repelling the invasion. The 18th formed part of the force who met the Fenians at Ridgeway, being brigaded with the Queen's Own Rifles under Lieutenant-Colonel Booker. That this engagement ended as it did was no fault either of the Queen's Own Rifles, the 18th, or the officer in command. So gallantly did the 18th advance that the Fenians believed they, the 18th, were British regulars, and were on the point of retiring, when some one raised the cry, "Prepare for cavalry." Instantly the attacking party were formed into squares, so as to meet the expected on-

slaught of the mounted force. The Fenians at once took advantage of the mistake, and, as the Queen's Own Rifles and 18th stood in square, poured a murderous fire upon them, whereby some were killed and more wounded.

Under such circumstances, seasoned troops might well be excused for wavering, and it is not remarkable that the attacking body, in this case, were compelled to retreat and fall back upon their supports.

The officers of the 18th, present at Ridgeway, were: Lieutenant-Colonel Booker; Majors, Skinner and Cattley; Captains, Watson, Askin and Grant; Lieutenants, Sewell, Ritchie, Routh, Ferguson and Gibson; Ensigns, McKenzie, Baker, Armstrong, Roy and Young, with Captain John Henery as Adjutant. Ensigns Armstrong and Baker carried the colors.

The 18th had a long list of casualties, the wounded being Lieutenant Percy G. Routh; Privates, J. Dallas, John Donnelly, Edwin Hilder, George McKenzie, Richard Pentecost, and J. G. Powell. Besides these, though, Private Morrison died from the effects of the campaign, as also did Larratt W. Smith.

The 18th returned to Hamilton about the middle of June, and received from



SERGT.-MAJOR HUGGINS.



THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE 13TH BATTALION OF HAMILTON, 1894.

their fellow-citizens a well-earned ovation.

Nineteen years later, in 1885, when the troubles occurred in the North-West, the 18th fully expected that they would be permitted to share the dangers and honors of the expedition sent to quell the disturbance. Greatly to their chagrin, though, they were not called upon, the reason given being inexplicable to anyone not versed in the mysteries of "Red-tape" and the "Circumlocution Office," otherwise the Department of Militia and Defence.

It is worth noting, though, that if the 18th were not sent in the second North-West expedition just referred to, they furnished thirteen non-commissioned officers and men towards the first expedition, sent in 1870, under Colonel, now Field Marshal Lord Viscount Wolseley.

It is greatly to be regretted that exigencies of space prevent one from saying all that ought to be said about the history of the 18th Battalion, and that it is only possible to deal with some of the more salient points in a period covering just thirty-four years.

One of the most noticeable features in connection with the 18th Regiment is its magnificent band, which was organized in October, 1866, under Mr. P. Grossman, and now is one of the very best in the Dominion, which among its military bands numbers such crack bodies of musicians as the bands of the Queen's Own Rifles, the Royal Grenadiers, the Victoria Rifles of Montreal, and the 48th Highlanders. Among those who have been in this band at various times may be mentioned M. Wilson, H. Fricker, I. Snelson, A. Rupell, a famous piccolo player; Hutton, Complin, Dellow and Walsh, cornet players, besides many others. Mr. George Robinson became bandmaster in 1873, and has continued in that capacity ever since. To Bandmaster Robinson's untiring efforts, the 18th band owes the celebrity they have attained.

"The soldier who cannot shoot is an encumbrance to the service." This sentence, years ago, used to be printed in the Musketry Instruction Manuals issued to the regular forces of the Crown, and it may be yet. Whether it is or not,

every one will admit its truth, and those who know the 18th also know its utter inapplicability to that battalion. As a shooting battalion, the 18th have attained a splendid record, both at home and abroad! Have they not captured prizes galore at the D.R.A. matches and at the O.R.A. competitions, and have they not been represented on almost every Canadian team sent to Wimbledon and Bisley since 1871?

Have they not, too, the honor of numbering among their non-commissioned officers, Thomas Hayhurst, who, at Bisley, in 1895, carried off the Queen's Prize against all competitors? This was the first time that valuable prize and coveted distinction was gained by a member of any corps outside the confines of the United Kingdom. That Hayhurst received an all but royal welcome when he returned to Hamilton from Bisley, goes without saying; the citizens were as proud of him, and as gratified at his success, as were his officers and his comrades.

Of the many camps and field days in which the 18th have taken part, there are some which a special reference must be made to; notably the camp at Grimsby in 1870, when, for the first time in Canada, a city battalion put in its drill under canvas.

The Militia Report for 1870 speaks of this camp in laudatory terms, and declares that the 18th performed its duties "in a manner which reflected great credit on the commanding officer and those under his command."

The camp just spoken of showed that the 18th were good soldiers, and in the long years that have elapsed since, the prestige of the corps has increased year by year, and never waned in the least. In 1898—not for the first time—the 18th went to Toronto and took part in the field-day and sham fight which took place on Thanksgiving Day in High Park, on the western boundaries of that city. Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson was in command of the attacking brigade on that occasion, and was warmly commended by Major-General Herbert for the manner in which he carried out the duties assigned to him. But the 18th never appeared to greater advantage



INSPECTION AT DUNDURN; LIEUT.-COL. MOORE AND VICE REGAL PARTY.

when away from Hamilton than they did in 1894, when they again proceeded on Thanksgiving Day to Toronto, to take their share in the review and sham battle, which was held to the north of the city. The battalion detrained at the foot of Brock Street, Toronto, about ten in the morning, and marched up Spadina Avenue to the fields north of Bloor Street, a distance of about a mile and three-quarters. They might have been veteran troops for the appearance they presented. Proudly did they swing along the noble avenue, and loud were the cheers that greeted them as they marched. Toronto people felt that, proud as they were of their own city's three regiments, their visitors were men whose soldierly bearing and discipline were such that in coming to Toronto they as much honored the city as they were honored by their hosts.

Once more, in 1896, did the 13th visit Toronto, when they again took their share in the work and responsibilities of the mimic warfare which was waged on the banks of the "Classic Don," to the east and north-east of the Queen city.

The Queen's Birthday parade in Hamilton on May 24th, 1896, was another red letter day in the history of the 13th, when they took part in the review held in Dundurn Park, when, among other

troops present, were the 48th Highlanders from Toronto, and the 7th Fusiliers of London. The 13th on this occasion fully deserved all the praise so freely bestowed upon them, alike by visitors and their fellow-citizens.

The Gzowski Cup, presented annually since 1891 to the most efficient corps among city battalions in Military District No. 2, has been secured by the 13th on every occasion, with but two exceptions, since its institution, a fact of which the battalion is pardonably not a little proud.

In conclusion, one more feature in the history of this popular regiment may be recorded, and that is the annual balls given by the officers in the Hamilton Drill Hall. These are always looked forward to by the fashionable world of Ontario with pleasurable anticipation, and after they are over they afford to all those who have been present at them the pleasantest memories.

The 13th is now an eight-company battalion, and the following is a complete list of the officers at the present date, some of whom can boast of more than a quarter century's service with the colors:

HONORARY LIEUTENANT - COLONEL.—
Hon. J. M. Gibson, A.D.C.

LIEUTENANT - COLONEL, COMMANDING.
—Alexander H. Moore.

MAJORS.—Henry McLaren, John Stoneman.

CAPTAINS.—E. G. Zealand, B.M.; E. E. W. Moore, B.M.; S. C. Mewburn; F. B. Ross; W. O. Tidswell; R. H. Labatt; J. H. Herring; C. A. P. Powis.

LIEUTENANTS.—George D. Fearman, W. H. Bruce, J. D. Laidlaw, T. W. Lester, F. R. Waddell, W. A. Logie, Ralph King, C. G. Barker.

SECOND LIEUTENANTS—W. R. Marshall, F. Parsons, R. A. Robertson, O.

R. Rowley, A. Pain, W. L. Ross, J. Billings, Jr., J. W. Ambery,

STAFF OFFICERS.—Adjutant, Captain and Brevet-Major, J. J. Stuart.

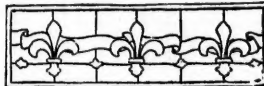
PAYMASTER.—Honorary Major, Chas. Armstrong.

QUARTERMASTER.—Honorary Major, J. J. Mason.

SURGEON-MAJOR.—H. S. Griffin, M.D.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN.—George S. Rennie, M.D.

Thos. E. Champion



A WOMAN'S WAY.

WITH a hopeless, helpless longing,
I hungered for thy love;
But ah! 'tis far from me, dear,
As far as Heaven above.

Unknowing and uncaring,
Thou did'st steal my heart away,
And I must bear in silence,
My loneliness alway.

For though thou lovest me not, dear,
I bear that as I must;
But thy scorn would bow my head, dear,
Down to the very dust.

For a man may speak out boldly,
Whether he lose or gain;
But a woman's unrequited love,
Is a woman's bitter shame.

Kathleen Blackburn.

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